

**U.S. Department of the Interior  
Bureau of Land Management  
Kremmling Field Office  
PO Box 68  
Kremmling, CO 80459  
Grand County, CO**

**CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION**

**A. Background**

NUMBER: DOI-BLM-CO-120-2009-0055-CX

PROJECT NAME: Independence Mountain and Dry Gulch RAWS Stations

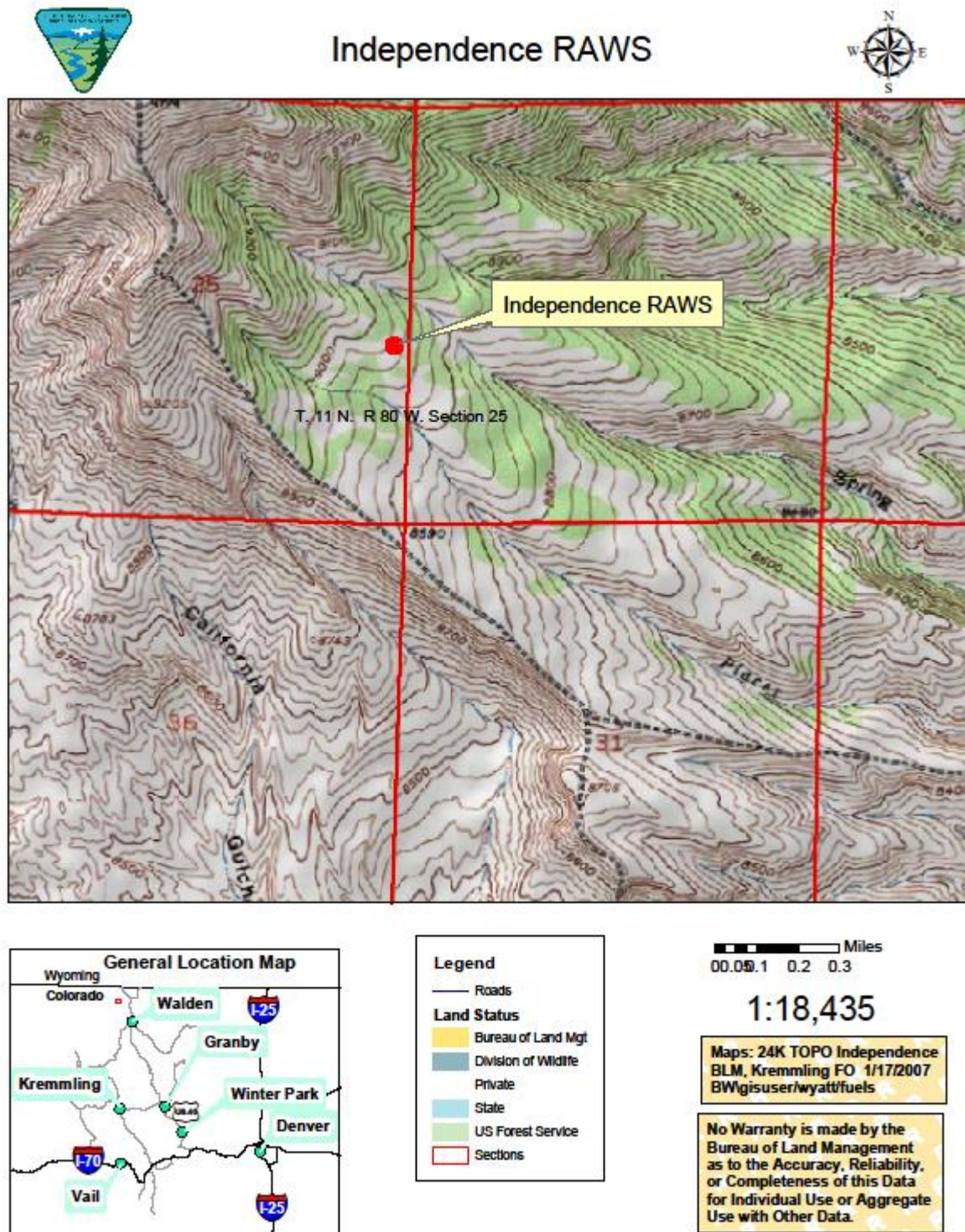
LEGAL DESCRIPTION: T. 11 N. R 80 W. Section 25, and T. 1 S. R. 82 W, Section 34

APPLICANT: USDI, Bureau of Land Management (BLM)

**Purpose and Need for the Action:** The purpose of this proposal is to provide and generate weather and fuels data for the implementation of projects and record fire severity within the Kremmling Field Office. This information will give scientific data used in the creation and drafting of management plans and implementation documents.

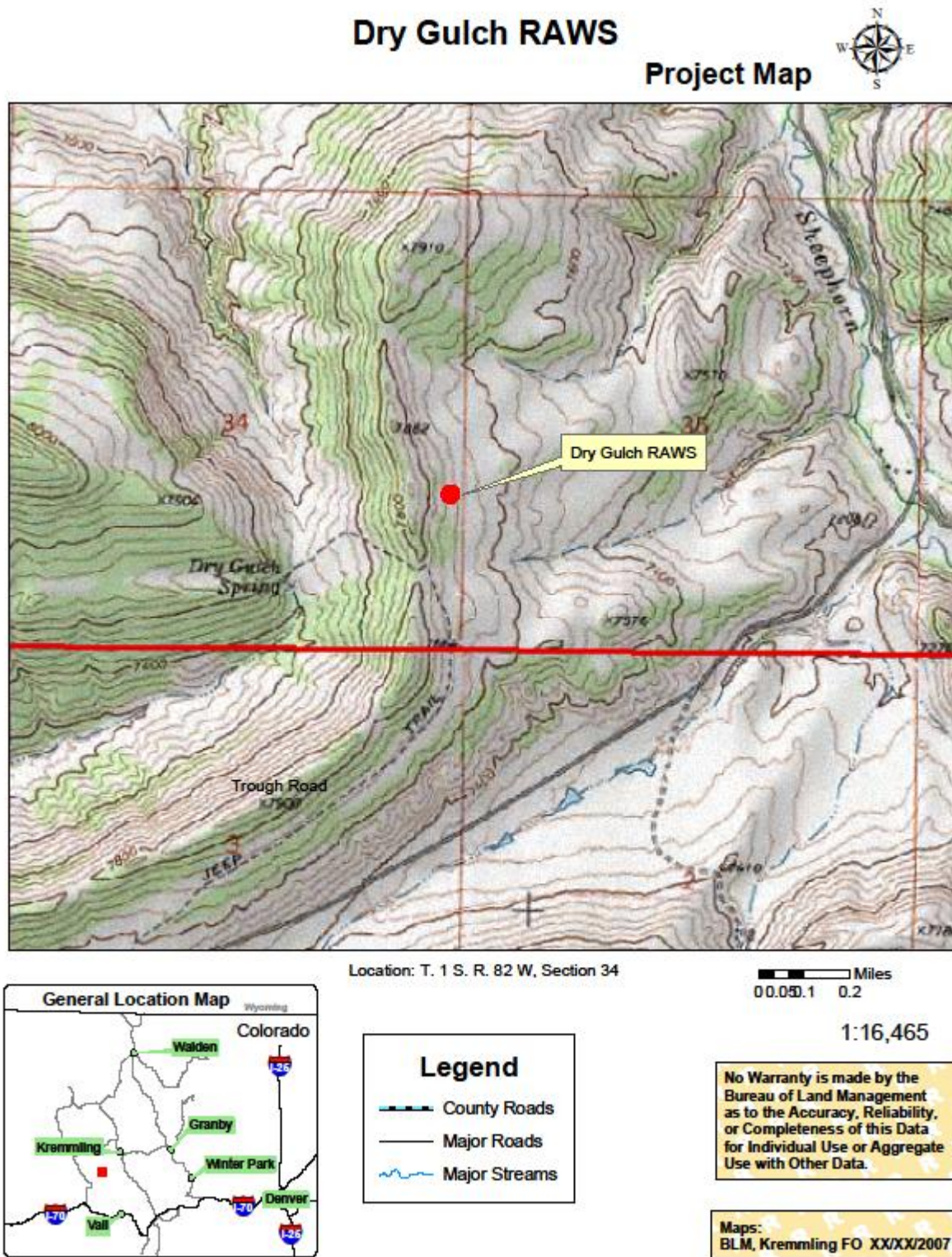
**Description of the Proposed Action:** The BLM is proposing to permanently locate two Remote Automated Weather Stations (RAWS) in two locations on the Kremmling Field Office, BLM. One is to be located on Independence Mountain in Jackson County, and the other will be located in Grand, County near Dry Gulch Spring along the Trough Road (Grand County Road 1). The total project area proposed for fuel treatments would be approximately .5 acres (see map 1 and 2 below for general project area). This proposal will also allow for the construction of a fence around the scientific equipment to protect it if necessary.

Map 1- Project Map





Map 2- Project Map



**B. Land Use Plan Conformance:**

The proposed action is in conformance with the LUP, even though it is not specifically provided for, because it is clearly consistent with the following LUP decision(s) (objectives, terms, and conditions): KFO RMP/ROD, Chapter 2, Section C. Support; Fire management activities support range, wildlife, and forestry programs and may also serve the local community and other agencies.

**C. Compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act:**

The Proposed Action is categorically excluded from further documentation under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) in accordance with BLM Categorical Exclusions 516 DM 11.9, Appendix 4, section J.3: Conducting preliminary hazardous materials assessments and site investigations, site characterization studies and environmental monitoring. Included are siting, construction, installation and/or operation of small monitoring devices such as wells, particulate dust counters and automatic air or water samples.

The application of this categorical exclusion is appropriate in this situation because there are no extraordinary circumstances potentially having effects that may significantly affect the environment and none of the exceptions apply.

**INTERDISCIPLINARY REVIEW:**

Name	Title	Area of Responsibility	Date Review Completed
Paula Belcher	Hydrologist	Soil, Water, Air & Riparian	6/23/09
Bill B. Wyatt	Fire Archaeologist	Cultural Resources and Tribal Consultation	6/24/2009
Megan McGuire	Wildlife Biologist	T&E Species and Wildlife	6/23/09
Susan Cassel	Assistant Field Manager	NEPA Compliance	6/24/09

**D. Signature**

Authorizing Official: /s/ Susan L. Cassel Date: 6/25/09  
(Signature)

Name: Susan Cassel  
Title: Asst. Field Manager

**Contact Person:**

Justin Kincaid  
Kremmling Field Office  
Kremmling, Colorado 80459  
(970)-724-3000

**DECISION RECORD**  
**CX #DOI-BLM-CO-120-2009-055CX**

**DECISION:** I have decided to implement the actions to deploy RAWS stations in the Proposed Action within the project area delineated on the attached maps. These treatments will meet the purpose and need for the project area.

This decision is in compliance with the Endangered Species Act, National Historic Preservation Act, and the Clean Water Act. This decision is also in conformance with the LUP and other applicable laws, regulations and policies.

This action is listed in the Department Manual as an action that may be categorically excluded. I have evaluated the action relative to the 12 criteria listed above and have determined that it does not represent an extraordinary circumstance and is, therefore, categorically excluded from further environmental analysis.

**RATIONALE:** The proposed action was chosen to enhance the BLM's ability to generate weather and fuels data for the implementation of projects and record fire severity within an area that does not currently have any RAWS stations.

**Implementation Date:** This project will be implemented on or after June 23, 2009.

**Signature of Authorized Official:**

\_\_\_\_/s/ Susan Cassel\_\_\_\_\_  
Susan Cassel, Acting Field Manager

\_\_\_\_6-25-09\_\_\_\_\_  
Date